

May 31, 1975

Editor, Editorial Page
The Washington Star
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

C
I hope you can agree that giving the press the exact words of an illegally classified "TOP SECRET" proceeding, particularly of a body like the Warren Commission and after a considerable and uncompensated effort to get it and others over so long a period of time, is not justification for the Garry Wills bile you published May 9.

O
So you can better appreciate the kind of journalism in which Wills engaged, I enclose a copy of this transcript. I would appreciate it if you forward it or a copy to the syndicate with my hope that it will see fit to make copies available to all the papers that carry Wills' column. Aside from fairness to me, I believe this would be fair to those editors who have to take Wills on faith. It will also enable those editors who may believe as I do, that Wills deliberately misrepresented and deceived in this column, to tell their readers whatever they may see fit about those Orwellian deliberations.

P
Y
It is appropriate that I address the Star separately on that "conspiratorialist" libel. Before I wrote a word on this subject and after considerable research that, with the writing, has stood the severe testing of time (if not prejudice), I offered all this work to the Star for it to write as it saw fit while I continued research and investigation. The offer was made to Charles Seib, then managing editor. Belmont Faries may remember it if your files do not show it. It was in late 1964. Do you suppose for a minute that I expected the Star to go for the kind of rubbish Wills alleges? Or to let me control what it wrote?

In fairness to the AP, please note also that it did not give my address or mention the book in which I published in facsimile all 90 "TOP SECRET" pages of that January 27 transcript and a wide assortment of other once-withheld documents.

I just do not see how anyone could have been less commercial than a writer who gives away such documents, how any selfish interest could thereby be served, or why any part of government could not stand on its own words and acts. Or be apologized for entirely out of context by a man with his own past writing to live with. Wills did co-author a Jack Ruby book.

The inference from his timing is that he serves as apologist for those agencies now being investigated, then reportedly Oswald's employers.

Yours truly,

Harold Weisberg

Enclosures